

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1001

By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bill May on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have devoted their lives to their art while also working to inspire, encourage, and sustain the artistic drive of others; and

WHEREAS, Bill May is taking a much-deserved retirement after more than ten years as the executive director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg; and

WHEREAS, during his outstanding tenure there, Mr. May has ensured the future of Arrowmont as a nationally recognized institution through expert management and dedicated fundraising, including Moving Mountains, a successful \$33 million comprehensive campaign; and

WHEREAS, in addition to overseeing operations, programs, and development, he led an \$8 million campaign to purchase Arrowmont's historic campus and is currently conducting a \$30 million campaign for future development; and

WHEREAS, a debt-free institution as a result of Mr. May's leadership, Arrowmont has achieved balanced budgets since 2010, doubled its annual operating revenues, increased its endowment more than five-fold to exceed \$21 million, and raised more than \$67 million in earned and contributed income; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his responsibilities as executive director, he serves as a juror for exhibitions and makes presentations on art education and the creative process; and

WHEREAS, Mr. May has also built a gifted and committed faculty and staff at Arrowmont and ensured a succession of leadership; and

WHEREAS, Bill May first moved to Sevier County and the Great Smoky Mountains in 1980 because of his love of nature and outdoor activities; he bought a small farm and fulfilled a lifelong desire to design and build his own house, the first passive solar house in Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, as he became more and more interested in art and design during the construction process, Mr. May apprenticed in a stained glass studio and began to take classes at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, finding education, encouragement, and inspiration there; and

WHEREAS, establishing his own art glass studio in 1992, he designed, fabricated, and installed art glass for churches, public spaces, commercial buildings, and residences nationwide for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, May Studios' commissions garnered national recognition and numerous awards and appeared extensively in print and television; and

WHEREAS, Mr. May also designed recognition awards, which he donated to charitable organizations, including a commission to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, after serving as an instructor at Arrowmont, he joined the Board of Governors in 2009 and became the school's executive director shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, a tireless advocate for the arts, Bill May is passionate about access to the arts for all; the vital importance of maintaining arts instruction in public schools; and the importance of art to human development, to the national soul, and to a strong economy; and

WHEREAS, he is a graduate of Tulane University and engaged in graduate studies in English and gifted education at the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Bill May has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity as an artist and educator, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, his students, and the community at large; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Bill May our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, as we pay tribute to his valuable work as a practitioner of art glass and his excellent tenure as executive director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.